

The Sun

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More Ships

The statistics of new steel shipping made available in January and March issued by the Shipping Board are encouraging because of the steady increase in production they record. January, on account of abnormal weather and congested transportation facilities, was a disappointing month; in February a better showing was made, and the prospects for March are excellent. Particularly heartening is the fact that launches have more than kept pace with deliveries, and the laying down of new keels shows a constant rise in numbers.

At no time in the war has the complete dependence we must put on ships been so apparent as it now is. What was clear eleven months ago to a comparatively few men of superior vision is now apparent to the least thoughtful. The lesson impressed by impairment of the transatlantic service in December and January, which was enforced by the physical discomforts inflicted on the people of all the Northeastern States, has made it plain to all that our strong arm cannot strike Germany unless there are ships in ample number to carry our goods and our men to Europe.

The encouragement that may properly be drawn from the mounting totals of tonnage put into service each month is supported by the success of the campaign to enlist workers for the shipyards. The needed men are already enrolled, ready to begin their task as soon as the shops and ways are equipped to receive them. The venetian delays inevitable in the early stages of any great undertaking are being overcome and the production of the yards should soon attain the maximum planned.

But the country cannot afford to rest in its labors. If we get as many ships as we hoped to get, we must struggle to exceed that number. Ships in plenty will foil the U-boat, and we must not rest until we have finally smashed Germany's most potent weapon.

The Situation in Spain.

The fall of the recently formed Cabinet, which is announced in a despatch from Madrid, will cause a still greater complication in the muddled political conditions of Spain. Differences of opinion over constitutional and economic reforms are factors in the situation, but of equal importance is the dissatisfaction of the people with the Government's attitude upon questions of the war.

There was early in the war a strong pro-German feeling, created largely by the propaganda carried on by Prince Hohenzollern, the German Ambassador at Madrid, which succeeded in winning the support of the Conservative leader Don Antonio Maura. At the beginning of the war King Alfonso apparently expressed the situation when he said, "Only the cannals and myself are for the Allies." The sentiment has shifted heavily since then, due to the sinking of Spanish vessels by German submarines and the fact that the Germans have been overdoing their propaganda. An instance of this was shown in the last election, when the Maurists had an airplane to distribute political literature advertising the greatness of the Hohenzollerns and their Spanish supporters. The impression made on the high spirited Spaniard was that the party was sold out body and soul to the Germans. The Maurists lost heavily in the provinces that had formerly been their strongholds and polled less than 1,000 votes.

Spain has been described as a "democracy devoid of citizens." Its political difficulties are attributed by Dr. J. E. Dumas in an article in the *Nineteenth Century* to the fact that "for nearly four centuries there has been no moral or social idea, no religious or political institution, no pulsant statesman competent to guide or conduct Spanish society to the economic, intellectual and political development attained by the progressive peoples of Europe." The results of this are shown in the difficulty of getting the voters to exercise their right of franchise and the po-

ple of the different provinces to give up their "regionalisms" and combine upon a national policy.

The effect of this "regionalism" has been to make its cities, even provinces, "islands one from the other," and to create a lack of consciousness of kinship with the rest of Europe. This is what has made the attitude of Spain toward the war stand out in such marked contrast to the attitude of other neutral nations.

The recent upheavals in the Government are an indication that the people are awakening to an interest that they never before displayed in their national Government, and that they are opposed to the only too apparent attempt of a minority political party, or clique, to turn Spain over to the Hohenzollerns. With this new interest is bound to come a better national understanding of the aim of the Allies and a more sympathetic appreciation of their cause.

A New War Study for Women.

A new course of instruction for women has just been established by Columbia University in the School of Practical Arts of the Teachers College. The war has given rise to a novel form of medical treatment which is denominated Occupation Therapy; and "those who are eager to prepare themselves for some form of personal service to the sick and wounded" are invited to enter this "important and very attractive field of work."

As the war goes on there will be a constant increase in the number of crippled, disabled and shell shocked soldiers and sailors who will be brought home for medical treatment. It has been found that instruction in interesting occupations is of great value as a remedial agency in cases of this kind; and the new course of study is designed to qualify women to give such instruction to such patients. At first blush, the task may seem an easy one, and the invitation to study occupation therapy will probably appeal to many young women who are seeking pleasurable excitement rather than anything else in the guise of useful war work; but a little reflection and experience will show that it is a task not to be carelessly undertaken.

A sympathetic temperament is essential to any high degree of success in work of this character. The born story teller, the contriver of games, the enthusiastic playmate of children, who combines strength with gentleness and possesses poise as well as the pleasure giving faculty, is the kind of young woman who is wanted here. The Columbia University circular on the subject suggests that teachers, nurses and social workers are most likely to have the sort of interest and preparation needed as a basis for occupation therapy. "It is important that workers in this field should be of the most normal, wholesome, well balanced type, with plenty of enthusiasm, sympathy and intelligence, and with a fairly high degree of physical vigor and endurance." Other things being equal, those who have already qualified as trained nurses will probably prove most efficient in occupation therapy.

The course of study leading to the Teachers College diploma requires two academic years, but a minimum programme is published setting forth the requirements for admission to service in connection with the civil and military hospitals. The student must complete at least seven courses comprising: the medical aspects of occupation therapy; the methods of teaching this treatment; observation and practice work with the patients in institutions; the elements of psychology; art structure (design); and at least two craft courses out of a group in which are included clay modelling (pottery), hammered metal, weaving, basketry and wood work (elementary carpentry).

A threefold equipment is declared to be requisite for the teacher of occupation. First, she should understand sick people. In the second place, the circular tells us, "she must have the psychological background for teaching." Finally, she should be skilled in arts and crafts, the principles of design and the use of color. The new therapy is to be explained to the students by leading experts in nervous and mental disease. It is evident, therefore, that the medical profession has taken up this novel method of treatment in all seriousness and that it will probably prove a permanent addition to the resources of the healing art.

Representative Madden's Ruffled Temper.

Representative MARTIN B. MADDEN of Illinois succeeded on Saturday in blocking the efforts of Representative THURGOOD W. SIMS, chairman of the House Committee on Interstate and Foreign Commerce, to have the daylight saving bill considered at a special session of the House this evening. The reason he assigned for his objection is trivial:

"I am not opposed to the bill. I am rather in favor of it. But the gentleman, since he became chairman of Interstate and Foreign Commerce, attaches too much importance to the position he occupies. He thinks he would set aside all the other legislation pending in Congress so that he may be given the floor. I object."

The bill which Mr. Madden thus held up provides that all clocks in the United States shall be set forward an hour on March 31. It must pass not only the House but the Senate, and when it has been signed by the President, who is in favor of it, the people all over the United States must be told how they are to adapt their businesses and their pleasures to it. Simple though it is, there is likely to be considerable misunder-

standing of its purpose and its terms. If its passage is delayed much longer, Mr. Madden appears to have allowed some personal idiosyncrasy of the chairman of the Interstate and Foreign Commerce Committee to disturb his philosophic calm and induce him to an act which, in annoying Mr. Sims a little, may inconvenience some thousands of innocent individuals a great deal. We hope he will recover his good nature and put no more obstacles in the path of the daylight saving measure, which should be enacted into law at the earliest possible moment.

John Bartlett Acknowledges the Corn.

The uncounted victims of deceitful memories who depend on JOHN BARTLETT and his admirable collection of familiar quotations to keep them straight will be interested in the subjoined letter, which announces the correction of an error in his generally accurate work:

"TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN.—Sir: We note in your editorial of February 17 that you are awaiting word from us concerning the misquotation from Rabelais on page 957 of our Bartlett's Familiar Quotations, 1914.

"We have referred to the translation by Sir Thomas Urquhart and Peter Anthony Motteux, Bohn's edition, London, 1851, and we find on page 251 that the passage in question is translated 'Coin is the shew of war.'"

"The particular interest that attaches to this fact is that this very edition of Rabelais was doubtless used by Mr. Bartlett in compiling his Rabelais section, and it seems quite evident that the error would have been not so much of his making as attributable to those long suffering martyrs the printer and proofreader. Then, too, the passage made sense as printed and thereby escaped challenge until now.

"The change will have been made in our plates by the time this reaches you, and we remain

Yours very truly,

LYNN, BROWN & COMPANY,

112 E. 6th Street,

Boston, March 8."

Not only does the passage, "Coin is the shew of war," make sense, as Mr. Motteux points out, but it is a statement absolutely unimpeachable in fact, as Mr. Hoover is continually impressing upon us. Corn is "the seeds of cereal plants used for food, as maize, barley, rye, wheat, oats," JOHN FISKE, in his "Discovery of America," wrote:

"In England 'corn' means either wheat, barley, rye and oats collectively, or more specifically wheat; in Scotland it generally means oats; in America it means maize, the 'Indian corn,' the cereal peculiar to the Western Hemisphere."

Originally "corn" meant what is crushed or ground, according to MAX MILLER, and today corn is truly the shew of war for a world crushed and ground in the moriar of war. We wish that MASTER FRANCIS RABELAIS had said corn; it might have saved some of the loose thinking that arises from confounding money with the things money buys. But as he did not, Hon. John Bartlett acknowledges the corn handsomely and sets himself straight; and we are rather glad to have caught him napping because the old fellow is so confidently accurate that he frequently shames us.

The Food Administration Means Business.

Fifty-seven restaurant and lunch room proprietors in this town who thought the Food Administrator's regulations were made to be disobeyed will shut up their places of business to-day and keep them closed until Wednesday morning. Tuesday will be a business day for them, and as it drags its slow length along they will have ample time to consider the folly of failure to comply honestly with the food saving rules that necessity has imposed on us.

The action of the Food Administration in compelling these violators of its regulations to close for a day is thoroughly commendable. Had they been fined the amount of the fines would have been added to their customers' bills, and the guilty individuals would have escaped punishment. But now they must lock their doors and display a placard reading:

"Closed for the day for violation of the regulations of the United States Food Administration."

Not only will they lose a day's business, but the cause of their suspension will be known to all their patrons. This will have a salutary effect generally, for it will teach many doubtfuls that the Food Administration means what it says when it orders us to conserve foodstuffs, and that it fully intends that its commands shall be heeded.

The National German American Alliance seems to have been efficiently national, and German, but the "American" in its name was ignored in the prosecution of its work.

Brigadier-General EVAN M. JOHNSON in speaking of the advantages which the men at Camp Upton had received by reason of their opportunity to appear before their home people in New York city, said that the effect had been excellent.—Despatch from Washington.

And the effect produced on New York city was not less excellent. The parading soldiers learned how highly they are thought of here, and we learned how worthy they are of our respect and admiration.

A little bit of spring, a wonderful display of northern lights, a rainstorm, a snowstorm and a gale, all in four days, reveal March as fully deserving its reputation.

Ex-Representative VERNON L. BURNES of Wisconsin says his indictment on charges of obstructing recruiting, encouraging desertion and interfering with the prosecution of the war is a

political move, pure and simple." It is interesting to observe, however, that citizens who give all their devotion to the country and who are doing all the enemy never are victims of such "purely political" prosecutions.

Impostors who pose as officers of foreign military and naval services have made a rich harvest in this country, and their schemes have been greatly aided by the abundance of their dupes to confess that they have been taken in. Many a sharper has gone free because his victim dreaded publicity. Now the British and Canadian Governments have established a fraud detector here to expose the swindlers and the number of successful rascals of this order will steadily decline.

The ingenious criminal FORBES, who apparently can get out of any prison, surrendered to his pursuers without a struggle. The problem of keeping out of jail offers more difficulties to a criminal than the task of escaping from a cell.

THEY DO THEIR DUTY.

They Serve Their Country Worthily and Deserve the Respect of All.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN.—Sir: I am glad that the criticism as to reserve officers' uniforms has been met so convincingly by the Editor of the Sun in the issue of March 8.

The writer in the Sun was correct when he stated that the little red school house of years ago, with its very small curriculum, produced many more intelligent persons than our present palaces do, with their too large curriculum.

Major Hylan should invite the people to the school house, since the gas so that he may ascertain just how to "give our children an educational system of equal opportunity for all," as he said he would.

NEW YORK, March 9.

THEY GOT THE GAS.

The Public Service Commission Finds Grateful Defenders.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN.—Sir: The letter by "J. R. W." in the Sun implies a reflection on the value of the Public Service Commission that brings me to my feet in its defense. I know nothing of the circumstances to which "J. R. W." refers, but from my experience with the Public Service Commission I am inclined to believe that whatever decision may have been it gave both sides justice.

We all know that the Hon. Oscar Straus, present head of the commission, is a man above reproach, a fair minded, able and honest business man. The commission is fortunate in having such a man at its commission's head, and his colleagues are far different from some of those that afflicted previous heads.

Now for what we know of the Public Service Commission and its work for the information of "J. R. W." and others. We, Douglass, Long Island, feel deeply indebted to the Public Service Commission for the local gas companies we have been the victims of its greed and business incompetency. Instead of looking ahead and planning to give a safe and growing community, paying taxes to the city of New York, a convenient and growing gas supply, we have been obstructed by every devious means known to underhand diplomacy. Even when commanded by the courts after extended public hearings to live up to their public duty they have failed to do so.

Well, we took it up with the Public Service Commission, the public's foster father, the only tribunal to whom we could look for justice in a controversy with the gas companies, and it has at last secured justice for a man who is entitled to public comfort and convenience and growth as electricity or water, they have been obstructed by every devious means known to underhand diplomacy.

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TIMES CHANGE.

The Rhetoric of Populism Now Reverts to City Hall.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN.—Sir: I read with great interest Mayor Hylan's letter commenting on the recent liberalization of the city of New York from the control of political bosses, financial pirates and soulless profiteers.

How times change! It seems but yesterday that the metropolitan press was ridiculing our Western orators who delighted to appear the octopus and take a fall out of the moneybags.

How uncouth and flamboyant their patois sounded when compared with the restrained and conservative diction of the cultured East! Little did we dream that within a few short years the robust spirit of the prairie would permeate to the Atlantic coast and express itself through the lips of the chief executive of our great metropolis in language that would once have stirred the untamed soul of the most violent Kansan.

O shades! O mores! O tempos of the lamented, soulless Jerry! ALBANY, March 8.

THE CHILD'S VOCABULARY.

A New Accusation Against the Public School System.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN.—Sir: The average graduate of an elementary school has a vocabulary of about 300 or 400 words. Isn't this shocking? It certainly is when you consider that after eight years of school one acquires practically no knowledge of the most important subject.

The teachers jam into the heads of the pupils innumerable grammatical rules, which the pupils learn and recite, word for word, but which they never understand nor apply. Never is a rule clearly explained.

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HIGHLY IMPORTANT INFLUENCES AFFECTING INVESTMENT CONDITIONS.

How the Security Markets Have Been Cheered by Recent Developments at Washington—Some of the Factors Making for Sustained Strength in the Stock Market—Benefits Accruing to the Railroads Under the Railroad Control Bill—Public Interest in the Efforts to Enact the War Finance Corporation Measure—Vital Points in an Exceptionally Interesting Investment Situation.

BY WILLIAM JUSTUS BOIES.

Attention has been directed toward Washington this week, where notable progress has been made in getting both the railroad control bill and the War Finance Corporation measure ready for the country to experiment with.

These are two of the greatest financial measures of the world war period, and when they are safely upon the statute books the investment community will be better prepared to take up the task of securing record subscriptions for the third Liberty Loan. The problems of the war are bringing Government officials into a close alliance with the captains of industry and the leaders of finance. This cooperation, which has been an extraordinary achievement of the testing process which American participation in the European war forced upon us, will outlast the struggle and benefit generations to come.

Changes of a Decade.

One has only to recall the trials of the 1907 panic and the strife of those days between Government and corporations—both railroad and industrial—to appreciate the progress that the country has made. Ten years ago this month the banks cancelled the last clearing house loan certificates issued during the disturbance of the year before, and hope of new financial legislation was practically abandoned. Wisconsin's famous Senator, J. A. Hoar, led a "little group of wifely men" in opposition to the emergency currency bill which was squeezed through the Senate on the afternoon of May 30, with the provision that it should expire by limitation on June 30, 1914, just one month before the world convulsing European war began.

The La Follette of 1908.

Had not the life of this law been extended by the provisions of the Federal Reserve act the financial chaos in this country caused by the European war would have been much more serious. This reference to the conditions existing a decade ago shows how much stronger this country's position now is, with an admirable banking law on the statute books and the largest gold reserve that any nation can boast of. But the thing to remember is that whereas in 1908 the country tolerated La Follette, a few days ago the Legislature of his own State condemned him. The war has brought us some blessings, therefore, which must not be lost sight of.

Character of Speculation.

The public is not buying stocks in any large way. Neither is it selling them. Wall Street trading on certain days last week reached the low level of dullness for 1918. Notwithstanding this lack of animation, however, the market has been under no duress, and there was no pressure to speak of from the bears. The developments of the last fortnight show that the heavy selling in anticipation of income tax day—which on June 15 next will involve total payments on numerous accounts exceeding \$2,500,000,000—has pretty well subsided. The market lacks initiative. Every one seems to be waiting for something to happen. But the things that the market is waiting for are quite as likely to put prices up as they are to put prices down. In this respect the market is very different from those encountered a few months ago when huge blocks of stocks for both home and foreign accounts were pressed for sale.

The "Human Turnover."

The striking statements issued by several industrial corporations last week covering their business in 1917 emphasized the alarming cost of the "human turnover." This represents the losses taken by large employers in having to educate a constantly changing operating force to do the same work. The demand for skilled workers so far exceeds the supply as to give labor the upper hand everywhere. It is inefficient, arrogant and troublesome to deal with. But there is no other supply at present owing to the stoppage of immigration and the withdrawal of men for military duty. The consequence is that more time and money are spent to-day in retraining untrained men to work effectively than were ever before expended for this purpose. Employers themselves are in a measure to blame, since they entice workers from other cities through offers of

Bidding for Help.

These abuses started with the munition workers, spread to the steel plants, and now reach every industrial property having a Government contract. One enterprising shipbuilder seeing huge profits in speedy construction sent emissaries into a rival's plant with offers of a 33 per cent. wage increase for the best workmen. The dislocation caused by this episode forced the Federal authorities to take measures against its recurrence, so that the sensational rise in shipbuilding costs should not reach a prohibitive level. President Topping of the Republic Iron and Steel Company in its annual report lays stress upon the "decrease of efficiency and increase in cost of operation to the company" from having to educate 638 inexperienced men to fill the places of regular workers who had been called to the colors.

The Great Pawnshop.

There will be plenty of business for the War Finance Corporation to take care of as soon as it opens its doors, but this institution is to serve as a distribution of labor through the instrumentality of a general clearing house maintained in Chicago to which daily reports will be made. Efforts of public utility corporations to secure permission to increase their rates for trolley service, and in some instances for lighting, heating and power service, so as to compensate them for the higher cost of labor, fuel, equipment and other supplies, will bring up some highly important questions for the Public Service Commission to pass upon. Some of the companies are so hard pressed for funds that they have not been able to pay their taxes and have been forced to purchase second hand equipment instead of new material.

Higher Trolley Rates.

Many of these companies will seek loans from the War Finance Corporation as soon as that institution begins work. But the action of 146 New Jersey municipalities in opposing the demand for increased trolley fares shows that the companies will not get their higher schedule without a struggle. It ought not to be difficult for public commissions to ascertain the facts, since the cost of material is known, and there is no secret about the demands that the labor unions are making for higher pay and a shorter working day.

Improvement in Business.

The reorganization of the War Industries Board with the effect of speeding up production and increasing individual output in all military activities will have a good effect. General trade is feeling the impulse of spring buying and the definite betterment in trade conditions. The breakage of the freight blockade has been an important advance in clearing manufacturing activity and making it possible for industrial companies to increase their output and to take on new orders.

Interest on Deposit Balances.

The proposal made by the New York Clearing House committee that banks and trust companies affiliated with that body should limit the rate of interest paid on deposits to 2 per cent, less than the existing rate for savings banks, is a measure of great importance. It will tend to bring the rates of the clearing banks in line with the rates of the savings banks, and to unite on some curbing arrangement in the interest of efficient work to help the Government in this crisis. Objections to these proposed restrictions have been urged by some trust company officials on the ground that the ruling should be applied to all banks, not only to clearing banks, but also to the accounts of savings banks or to very large private accounts where the balances are tied up in a bank in offering the higher rate.

Our Grain Reserves.

The estimates given out by the Department of Agriculture touching the grain left in farmers' hands on March 1 are very suggestive in view of the decline in the January exports of foodstuffs and the pressing need for increased shipments for the use of our Allies abroad. The reserves of wheat aggregating 111,772,000 bushels, although more than 10,000,000 bushels larger than those reported at the same date last year, were with that exception the smallest reported in thirteen years. If it is necessary for this country to ship 10,000,000 bushels of wheat a month for several months to come in order to supply an urgent foreign demand, very suggestive in view of the decline in the January exports of foodstuffs and the pressing need for increased shipments for the use of our Allies abroad.